Showcasing your best practice

This guide will support you as you create a video that best communicates your teaching expertise!

Keep your goals in mind:

You want to capture yourself on video

- "Interacting effectively with students to help them develop conceptual understanding

and

- Helping students move their thinking forward" (p. 6 of the Application Packet)

If you teach more than one class, identify the class you're going to video

- You're interaction with them will provide evidence of your understanding of their
  - Learning styles
  - Interests
  - Abilities

Identify content/topic in response to what you know about the students.

Choose content
- you are excited about
- your students are interested in
- provides potential for real investigation

Identify the concepts key to the content/topic

- Use National Standards or Benchmarks to identify these concepts

- Focus on one concept to begin with

- Remember that skills are not the focus here; they are the means by which students will be developing conceptual understanding

Review your own understanding of these
concepts

Choose/adapt curriculum that will help you develop students' conceptual understanding. It should:

- Allow for direct experimentation or problem solving as methods for developing understanding
- Be demanding but within your students' capabilities
- Allow you to base learning on authentic questions generated from students' experiences

Create a classroom culture that supports active learners

- Teach students
  - cooperative learning skills
  - discourse skills
- Model
  - tolerance for different ideas
  - wonder, interest
- Practice facilitating processing-for-meaning type discussions with students

Strategies to focus on

- Invite students to participate in setting goals, planning activities, assessing their work, and designing a learning environment

- Intervene in students' open exploration to focus and challenge their thinking

- Challenge students to make sense of their experiences by helping them learn to explain, clarify, and critically examine and assess their work

- Encourage informal discussion and structure activities so that students are required to explain and justify their understanding, argue from data, defend their conclusions, and critically assess and challenge the explanations of others
- Require students to record their work, with a purpose
- Guide students in acquiring and interpreting information from sources, comparing it to their developing understandings
- Include full participation by all

Incorporate assessment

- Choose a form of assessment that best assesses the conceptual understanding you are working to develop
- Select and use assessment tasks that are also good learning experiences
- Observe and listen to students as they work individually and in groups
- Interview students and implement formal performance tasks